Statement

The comparative tariff of India vis-a-vis of selected countries is as follows:

Telephone Collection Charges

Country	CUR	IDD Standard Charges in Exchange Per Minute To India	To India	From India	Rate on 3.12.98
		In Local Cur	In Indian Rs.	In Indian Rs.	Equivalent Rs.
UK(*)	PND	0.94	66.15	52.50	70.37
Germany(*)	DEM	3.12	79.00	65.50	25.43
Australia(*)	Australian Dollar	1.73	46.14	62.50	26.67
USA(*)	US $	2.66	112.57	75.00	42.80
Hongkong	Hongkong Dollar	12.00	66.36	62.50	5.53
Singapore	SG $	2.15	54.78	62.50	25.48
Japan (KDD)	Yen	45.00	67.10	62.50	0.35
Thailand	Baht	43.00	66.96	62.50	1.557
UAE	Dirham	6.43	74.00	62.50	11.55
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Rupees	55.00	34.53	37.50	1.59

(*)These countries have also got Promotional Rates for special seasons and special customer as marketing strategy.

Per Minute Charges		Promotional Rate		Called	Exchange
Country	Cur	To India	To IndiaAS		Rate on 3.12.98
		In Local Cur	In Indian Rs.		Equivalent Rs.
UK (*)	PND	0.557	39.20	Country Calling Plan	70.37
Australia (*)	Australian Dollar	1.00	26.67	Reward Rate 24 hrs. 7 Daya	26.67
USA (*)	US $	0.80	33.64	AT&T Asian Value Plan	42.30

Clearance of Revenue Sharing for Paging Operators

1297. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications had cleared revenue sharing for paging operators;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the net outcome of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

उत्तर प्रदेश में पर्वतीय प्रदेश में नए डाकघर

1298. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय प्रदेश गढ़वाल और कुमाऊं मण्डलों में डाक सेवाओं को मजबूत बनाने के लिए वहां नए डाकघर/उप-डाकघर स्थापित करने का विचार कर रही है।;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) और (ख) जी हां, चालू वार्षिक योजना अर्थात् 1998-99 में गढ़वाल रेवेन्यू डिवीजन में 1 (एक) विभागीय उप डाकघर और 4 अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर तथा कुमाऊं रेवेन्यू डिवीजन में 3 अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर खोलने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है। बशर्ते कि संसाधन उपलब्ध रहें।

(ग) उपर्युक्त (क) और (ख) को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Privatisation of Postal Services

1299. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal services are to be privatised partially; and

(b) if so, the details thereof especially in respect of postal agencies in the Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Participation of the private sector in postal services has been marginal and that too in the role of augumenting the efforts of the Department to provide basic postal facilities in the needy areas. Private agencies have been participating in identified area of activity like sale of stamps and stationery, transportation of mail and provision of additional public facilities at a few places, like Post Shoppe. In Andhra Pradesh also activities like sale of postage stamps and stationery through licensed stamp vendors is in vogue.

Popularisation of Internet for Educational Purpose

1300. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to make the internet more popular for educational purpose;

(b) whether Government would consider providing the internet connection at cheaper rates to the educational institutions; and

(c) how many educational institutions have 64 KPBS connections State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The internet access on dial up basis is available on concessional bssis for the students of class XI & above for which only Rs. 500/- are charged as the Annual (or 500 Hrs. whichever is earlier) usage charges. Further w.e.f. 1.1.98 the educational Institutions are charged Rs. 4 lacs per annum instead of the normally charged Rs. 8 lacs per annum for the 64 KPBS port. The relevant Circulars are annexed herewith as Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) Information is at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Copy of the letter No. 111-1/195PHC Dt. 16.3.1998.

Sub: Concessional Internet access service for students.

Reference is invited to this office